

Message Text

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10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SY-05 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 DOTE-00

FAA-00 CAB-02 /085 W

----- 127938

R 232000Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 497

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7198

ALSO FOR A/SY/FO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CI, AR, ASEC

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY: GOC CREDITS MIR WITH BOMBING ARGENTINE

AIRLINE OFFICIALS

REF: 75 SANTIAGO 6143

1. HORACIO MAZZUCCO, THE ARGENTINE REGIONAL MANAGER OF AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS STATIONED AT SANTIAGO, RECEIVED SERVE BURNS ON HIS HANDS AND FACIAL LACERATIONS WHEN HE OPENED A CIGARBOX-SIZED GIFT IN HIS OFFICE THE MORNING OF JULY 19. SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS DETERMINED THAT MOST OF THE EXPLOSIVE FLASHED INSTEAD OF DETONATING, THUS SAVING HIS LIFE. ACCORDING TO SECURITY FORCES, THE PACKAGE HAD BEEN SENT FROM RANCAGUA BY "MANUEL IRIARTE R." A FICTITIOUS PERSON WITH THE INITIALS MIR. IT IS SAID THAT THE MIR INTENDED TO REVENGE THE DEATH OF A MIR LEADER, EDGARDO ENRIQUEZ, WHO THEY ALLEGE WAS TURNED OVER TO CHILEAN AUTHORITIES BY ARGENTINE FORCES. ARGENTINE EMBASSY OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT MAZZUCCO HAD RECEIVED NO PREVIOUS THREATS AND HAS NO POLITICALLY PROMINENT FAMILY CONNECTIONS

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AT HOME.

2. COMMENT: THE GOC HAS RARELY GIVEN THE MIR CREDIT FOR A SUCCESSFUL TERRORIST ATTACK. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT AT LEAST THREE OTHER SIMILAR DEVICES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN FOUND: TWO WERE DUDS BUT ONE ALLEGEDLY EXPLODED IN A GOVERNMENT MINISTRY. THERE WAS NO PUBLICITY. WHEN A LOW-POWERED DEVICE EXPLODED ON THE EVE OF THE JUNTA'S ANNIVERSARY LAST SEPTEMBER, INJURING "LA SEGUNDA'S" MANAGING EDITOR(REF), THERE WAS PUBLICITY BUT NO ATTRIBUTION TO THE MIR. IN THE PAST , THE GOC'S OBVIOUS INTEREST IN PLAYING UP THE MIRISTA THREAT TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED SEVERITY IN THE SECURITY AREA HAS BEEN OFFSET BY RELUCTANCE TO TELL CHILEANS THAT THE MIR CAN OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY.

3. TECHNICALLY THE DEVICES WERE OF POOR QUALITY, PARTICULARLY THE EXPLOSIVE, MECHANICALLY FUSED, AND RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED. THE BOMB WAS SENT THROUGH THE INTER-URBAN BUS LINE PACKAGE SERVICE, ADDRESSED BY NAME, WRAPPED AS A GIFT AND REWRAPPED IN BROWN PAPER. THE EMBASSY IS MAINTAINING ITS MAIL AND PARCEL INSPECTION PROCEDURES.
POPPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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